

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) Supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), said supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) being introducible into a penetration (14) in a component (39), wherein, for the fixing of the component (39) on a carrier (40), the hole (41) of said supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) is penetrated by a fixing pin, particularly a screw (13, 43), insertable into the carrier, characterized in that the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) is formed in cross section as a closed ring and comprises a plurality of axially extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), ~~wherein, when radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), the walls (6, 7; 35, 36) said recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) come closer to each other as~~ the being formed by radially inwardly directed walls (6, 7; 35, 36) and bases (8) of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25), said bases (8) adjoining the sides of the walls (6, 7; 35, 36) facing the hole (41) and extending in such a manner as to bend in the rotating direction when radial pressure is applied.

2. (original) Supporting sleeve according to claim 1, characterized in that the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) are uniformly distributed over the ring.

3. (currently amended) Supporting sleeve according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, for captive holding of the fixing pin (13), the bases (8) of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) have inwardly pointing projections (15, 16, 17, 18) at one end of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34).

4. (original) Supporting sleeve according to claim 3, characterized in that the projections (15, 16, 17, 18) form a constriction of the hole (41) of the supporting sleeve in relation to a widening of the diameter of the fixing pin (13), particularly of its thread (20).

5. (original) Supporting sleeve according to claim 4, characterized in that the constriction supports a washer (45) guided by the fixing pin (43), said washer (45) being supported on the opposite side by the widening.

6. (original) Supporting sleeve according to claim 5, characterized in that the opening (48) of the washer (45) is determined by three overlapping circular areas, the centre points of said circular areas lying on a circular arc (55) whose centre points coincides with the axis of the supporting sleeve, the three centre points of the circular areas being uniformly distributed on the circular arc (55).

7. (currently amended) Supporting sleeve according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that the recesses (22, 23, 24, 25) are slightly axially elongated in comparison with the bulges (26, 27, 28, 29) which connect them.

8. (currently amended) Supporting sleeve according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the bulges (26, 27, 28, 29) connecting the recesses (22, 23, 24, 25) form in cross section an axially continuous wave-like valley (30, 31, 32, 33).

9. (currently amended) Supporting sleeve according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the walls (35, 36) of the recesses (37) extend obliquely with respect to the radial direction (38) in such a manner that the recesses (37) each have a uniformly repeating skew position in relation to the radial direction (38).

10. (currently amended) Supporting sleeve according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) determining the hole (41) in the supporting sleeve (1) are of such an undersize in relation to the fixing pin in the form of the screw (13) that the screw (13) cuts an internal thread when being screwed into the supporting sleeve (1).